

VZCZCXYZ0009
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBH #0664 1501124
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 301124Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4298
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 000664

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

WHA/AND, NEA/IRAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/22/2017
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PHUM](#) [BF](#) [IR](#) [VZ](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: GROWING IRAN-VENEZUELA
RELATIONSHIP

REF: A. A. SECSTATE 61378
[1](#)B. B. NASSAU 0631

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires D. Brent Hardt,
Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Pol chief delivered reftel (a) demarche to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Acting Permanent Secretary Marilyn Zonicle. Zonicle appreciated the USG's points regarding the growing security concerns resulting from the close cooperation between Venezuela and Iran. Zonicle indicated that The Bahamas took a pragmatic approach in its relationship with Venezuela, as reflected in its not having concluded a Petrocaribe deal. She noted that The Bahamas, unlike other Caribbean countries, did not have a diplomatic representative in Caracas, and had, in the past tended to follow the CARICOM lead in dealing with the country.

[1](#)2. (C) Given the change of government in The Bahamas and its early statement that Petrocaribe was "not a priority" (see reftel b), we do not expect any warming of relations between Caracas and Nassau. Indeed we expect the FNM government to be a stronger partner of the United States in addressing Venezuela-related issues. We will continue to keep the Bahamian government informed of USG concerns regarding Iran's role in Venezuela and to press for greater cooperation internationally regarding Iran's nuclear ambitions.
HARDT